

TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION



THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS'

CLUB

Trail & Landscape

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The Ottawa Field - Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) \$10 Sustaining (yearly) \$25
Family (yearly) \$12 Life (one payment) \$200

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Viceregal Patrons

Viceregal Patrons

Their Excellencies the Governor General and Mrs. Edward Schreyer have graciously consented to become Patrons of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, and thus to continue the tradition established by their predecessors over our hundred years.

Memorial Fund

Two prominent members of the club, Bill Baldwin and Father Farrell Banim, recently passed away. In their memory, Council has established an Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Memorial Fund.

Bill Baldwin was a founder of the Macoun Field Club and in light of his interest and work with young naturalists, donations to his memory will go towards a special section of the OFNC Memorial Fund -- the Bill Baldwin Memorial Fund -- and will be used for Macoun Club projects.

Donors to the memory of Father Banim should specify which OFNC activity they would like the money put towards. If no specification is made, it will be used to support future OFNC projects.

Donations should be sent to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5. Cheques to the Fund should be made to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Receipts will be given for income tax purposes.

Conservation Award

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has received one of the conservation awards of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for 1979. The citation reads as follows:

"Presented to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the cause of conservation: for the continued excellence of the journal The Canadian Field-Naturalist which has a well-deserved national and international reputation and which provides a vital forum for reports on natural history and the environment by amateur and professional observers alike."

The award was accepted by Dr. Lorraine C. Smith, Editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' conference at Toronto, Ontario, on May 5, 1979.

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Christine Banfill	Brenda L. Kaufman
John Barron	Mrs. Clayton Keith
Martin T. Beardmore & family	Robert G. Larson & family
Hilde H. Behne & family	William L. Levine & family
Claire M. Blais	Norman B. Lewsey
Erik Blake	Barbara J. Martin
Irene M. Buchan	Caesar Meier & family
Robert & Bibiane Clemiss	Donald J. Menton
Jo-Anne R. Dillon	Lorraine K. Miller
Michelle M. Dondo	Antonia Miragliotta
Yolande Donnelly	Lillian & Garth Nelson
Iris R. Flatt	Jessie E. Rae
Eileen Henry	Pauline Steele
Shirley I. Holt	Doris A. Thoms
Charles Johnson	Sheila Williams
Peter & Frances Jordan	

Other Areas

Paul F.J. Eagles Cambridge, Ont.	J.M. Lackey Honolulu, Hawaii
Manfred A. Erhardt Oakville, Ont.	John Thomas Goose Bay, Labrador, Nfld.
Dr. L.S. Keith Madison, Wisconsin, USA	

If you know any of our new members, make them welcome,
and when you meet new members, introduce them to others.

July 1979

The Membership Committee
Fran Goodspeed, Chairman

The Club Years 1950-1959

text and photos by
CHARLOTTE DILL

Throughout the 1950's The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club continued to pursue its objectives of providing for its members worthwhile recreation and education in the field of nature study and conservation. There were active groups interested in birds, various branches of botany, and geology. For many members this period was a time for sheer enjoyment of the natural world with only an occasional anxious glance toward the increasing urban sprawl, loss of wild places, pollution, and other evils which were to become of such vital concern in the 1960's and 70's. Projects started in the 1940's such as the Audubon Screen Tours, sponsorship of the Macoun Field Club, publication of the Newsletter, and maintenance of the Lodge continued into the new decade.

The Council of the Club guided its activities through the organization of Committees and special interest groups. The committees on Publications, Reserve Fund, and Membership carried on important but behind the scenes duties, while other committees dealt with special fields of more immediate interest to the general members.

The Club through its Publications Committee continued to publish *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* as a medium for scientific papers in the natural history field and to ensure its distribution world wide to societies, institutions, and libraries as well as to individuals. These worldwide subscribers have always formed an important part of the membership of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

The Newsletter, begun in 1949, provided the local Ottawa membership with interesting accounts of field trips and meetings, bird records, information about the activities of Council, biographies of prominent members, articles on selected aspects of natural history by individual members, and many accounts of trips to other countries where members found birds and plants different from our own.

The Bird Census Committee continued to organize the Christmas Bird Census each year and, until 1959/60, the reports for all of Canada were collected and published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Council also appointed two representatives to the Canadian section of the International Committee on Bird Preservation.

The Special Lectures Committee made all arrangements for the interesting series of Audubon Screen Tours which were presented each season from 1948/49 until 1958/59. These colourful movies and lectures on wildlife were presented to enthusiastic evening audiences at Glebe Collegiate and were shown again as afternoon programs to the students at various Ottawa schools.

The Macoun Field Club Committee provided guidance and adult leadership for the junior club of school age young people which had been started in 1948.

There was a Gatineau Park Committee which, unfortunately, functioned for only three years. It was established in April, 1951, in response to a proposal from the Advisory Committee of the Federal District Commission (forerunner of the National Capital Commission). The Commission suggested that the Club assume the role of advisor in the development of Kingsmere, the estate of the late Mackenzie King. Council agreed and established the new committee with Dr. H.F. Lewis as chairman. In 1951 the committee members examined the Kingsmere estate and prepared preliminary recommendations on planting of shrubs and trees for bird food. In the following year a breeding bird census was conducted on the estate by Dr. John Arnold and members with specialized knowledge of park management assisted in equipping a park museum and establishing nature trails. In both years the Commission carried out the planting of shrubs and trees as suggested and erected a number of bird houses in the disturbed area of the park. From these preliminary activities it appeared that Kingsmere might become a major project of the Club. In October, 1953, however, Council was informed that the Club's Advisory Committee would probably not be called on for advice until road-building had been completed in the area. The Committee was, therefore, disbanded in 1954.

In 1956/57 The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club became affiliated with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the FON Affairs Committee was set up to provide liaison with the Federation. Information concerning the activities and objectives of the Federation was published in the Newsletter and members were encouraged to attend the FON's Summer Nature School for an enjoyable two weeks of natural history study. Members who attended were delighted with the experience and prepared interesting reports for the Newsletter.

Most important for local members was the Excursions and Lectures Committee. This Committee, responsible for activities of the local membership, busied itself in the fifties with the organization of field trips; evening meetings, including the annual dinner; sponsorship of study groups; publication of the Newsletter; and maintenance of the Club's Lodge.

The annual dinner was a tradition of several years standing and provided a get-together for members and an opportunity to meet members of the Macoun Field Club. Some of the after-dinner

speakers for the period were Mr. W.W. Mair on the Canadian Wildlife Service, The Reverend F.E. Banim on summer work at the Mediterranean Biological Station in France, and Dr. G. Holland on his adventures and observations in New Guinea. The annual meetings, held each December, also concluded with a speaker. It was traditional for the retiring president to give the talk after the business meeting adjourned. As presidents usually served two years there were five such talks in the fifties:

- 1950 "Activities of Affiliated Societies in B.C., Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec" by Dr. Pauline Snure
- 1952 "Mushrooms and Other Fungi" by Dr. J.W. Groves
- 1954 "Some Personal Observations on the Natural History of the Ottawa District" by Mr. Rowley Frith
- 1956 "The Clay Belt of Northern Ontario and Quebec" by Mr. W.K.W. Baldwin
- 1958 "Natural History Highlights of a European Tour" by Dr. L.S. Russell

In the alternate years guest speakers provided talks on several subjects including one by Mr. Hoyes Lloyd on "The Early Days of Natural History in Ottawa".

General evening meetings were usually limited to one or two per year because at that time special study groups met once or twice a month and there were five Audubon Screen Tours each winter. One meeting each year often took the form of a members' night with five or six members providing short talks on such subjects as Snakes of the Ottawa District, Insect Close-ups, and Prairies and Steppes.

From spring to fall excursions were held to locations of interest in Ontario and Quebec. In the early fifties many of these centred on the Lodge near Beattie Point on Lake Deschenes. The Club had signed a ten-year lease on an acre of property and a small club house was built with the help of members and others who donated time as well as money and materials. The opening was on the 24th of May, 1949, and for several years the anniversary was marked by a special Victoria Day excursion to the Lodge. In the first year or two work continued on its improvement with the addition of screens, work tables, and an outdoor fireplace. Picnic lunches and suppers were held frequently, especially by members of the study groups who carried out bird and botanical surveys in the area. A typical 24th of May excursion included morning and afternoon hikes in the surrounding fields and woods; to the shore of Lake Deschenes for shorebirds, ducks, and gulls; through the fields for Bobolinks, Meadowlarks and Kingbirds; and across the highway to a farm where Cliff Swallows built nests under the eaves of the barn, and Bluebirds were seen; then into a wooded area for warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, vireos, and many other birds. Toward the end of the decade new housing was spreading west from Ottawa and would soon surround the Lodge so in September, 1958, when the ten-year lease was nearing its termination, Council passed a resolution to have the building sold. It had been a worthwhile

*A group near
the Lodge,
May 21, 1956*



project and members of that period appreciated all the planning and work done by members of the Committee during the years the Lodge was in use.

Other favourite locations for Saturday excursions were the Experimental Farm, the Champlain Bridge islands, Almonte and the Mill of Kintail, Pakenham, and Kingsmere and other parts of Gatineau Park. One trip to Pakenham was written up in the Almonte Gazette by Miss Edna Ross and reprinted in the Newsletter, #20, March, 1955. Some excerpts follow: "On Saturday, May 15th, 1954, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club journeyed to Pakenham for an all day excursion. More than 40 members along with six young naturalists from the Macoun Field Club and several visitors attended. A picnic lunch was enjoyed by the banks of the Mississippi River.

"Morning exploration centred in the vicinity of the Stone Bridge, the only five arch limestone bridge of its kind in Canada. Dr. Alice Wilson was in charge of the entire group which visited the quarry in the hill at the approach to the village. Dr. Wilson, who is familiar with this particular spot and who has done extensive work in the Ottawa Valley and elsewhere, explained the formation of Black River limestone laid down probably 300 million years ago. The rock at this quarry had a depth of about 105 feet. The group examined crinoids, corals, brachiopoda and other fossils contained only in some layers.

"In the afternoon groups were organized to tour trail in the mountain district to the west of Pakenham for bird watching and botany observations. More than fifty species of birds were noted including nine species of warblers. Scarlet tanagers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, hermit and wood thrushes were in full song. The botany group found a specimen of black maple, here in its northern limit. Among smaller plants, wild ginger and showy orchids were of interest."



*David Maddox
splitting a
concretion,
Hiawatha Park,
May 24, 1958*

Another outing was to Hiawatha Park where the group found concretions embedded in the clay banks of the Ottawa River. Mr. D.C. Maddox showed everyone how to break them open to find fossilized fish inside.

During the fifties several study groups were very active. The Bird Group had been in existence for several years and had a regular attendance of about thirty members. Monthly meetings were held in the winter, usually at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Bourguignon where the members enjoyed talks and demonstrations in a recreation room lined with glass cases containing Mr. Bourguignon's excellent collection of mounted birds. The talks were varied and were given both by amateur members of the group and by professional ornithologists from the Canadian Wildlife Service, the National Museum, or other organizations. The programs included such topics as a description of bird banding by A.H. Bennett, reports on the breeding bird census carried out near the Lodge, a talk on bird migration by K. Bowles, a contest on bird songs using records, a talk on owls by Deborah Haight and Mary Stuart, and an account of bird studies in Iceland by David Munro of the CWS.

In May of each year the Bird Group provided leaders for early morning walks, meeting each Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. near the Bronson Bridge over the Canal. The walks along Dow's Lake and overlooking the remnants of Dow's Swamp which still existed, then across the railway bridge, along the Canal and up into the Arboretum, provided a wide variety of spring migrants. Non-members were invited to join the walks and attendance was good. The walks finished in time for participants to reach their offices by 8:30. At Christmas time the Group took part in the annual bird census.

On a spring evening in May, 1955, about 35 members of the Bird Group enjoyed an excursion to Stittsville to observe the mating ritual of the Woodcock. Near the highway was a large field with scattered bushes where the birds congregated. As we stood in the field just after dusk we could hear the nasal "beep" sounds from the male Woodcocks but it was too dark to see anything clearly. The following description was written soon after the trip: "I heard a "beep" in front of me so I started counting the "beeps". After about eight or nine, at intervals of a few seconds, there was a whirr as the dark form of the bird rose suddenly straight up out of the grass. I could see the flutter of its wings as it rose high up in the sky making a fairly shrill twittering sound (with its wings, so they say). Although it was getting quite dark the bird could be followed against the light sky. It went up and up and for a few moments was lost to view behind some small clouds. The rapid twittering sound died out a bit and, as the bird came down again into view, the last several twitters were slower and more deliberate. Then the sound ceased abruptly and a moment or two later the bird plummeted to the earth and disappeared in the grass. Presently the "beeps" could be heard again but from a slightly different direction."

Bird Group excursions on the weekends were held in spring and fall, many to the Lodge, and others farther afield to such places as Marchhurst, Constance Lake, and Kingsmere. One memorable outing was to Smiths Falls on June 4, 1955, where a flotilla of small boats each with three or four passengers proceeded from the locks to a marshy part of the waterway bordered with cattails and bur-reeds. Some of the birds seen were Pied-billed Grebes, Least Bitterns, Mallards, Common Gallinules, and Marsh Wrens. In one area many Black Terns were nesting, the nests built on little hummocks among the reeds. As we came close to see the eggs in one nest the parent birds hovered above us in an agitated manner so we quickly withdrew.

The Fern Group first met in October, 1950, and with the guidance of Miss Winnifred Anderson studied the distinguishing characteristics of ferns during the winter months. A group of eight to ten members was active for several years. Summer excursions to collect and study ferns in their natural habitat were held beginning in June. The Newsletter for November, 1951, reports that "two of the September excursions were of especial benefit to the Fern Group, the one to Meach Lake on September 15 and the other to the Mackenzie King Estate at Kingsmere on September 29. Shady wooded stream and rocky habitats; open stream, marsh and exposed rock supplied a variety of specimens for the collections which are giving renewed stimulus to the study. It has been most encouraging to last winter's beginners to find how much more readily the distinguishing features are impressed on the mind by ferns we have selected, pressed, mounted, traced and labelled." A check list of 32 local species of ferns, compiled by Verna Ross, was included in the report. The Fern Group continued its winter meetings with botanical studies under Dr. Groves, a visit to the Department of Agriculture Herbarium, and

instruction on collecting and mounting by Mr. Calder. During the summers of 1952 to 1955 the search for additional species of ferns continued with enthusiasm on trips to such areas as Meach Lake, Chilcott's bog, Old Chelsea, Pakenham, and Carlsbad Springs. At winter meetings the members "worked over their specimens and discussed identification problems." Eventually their specimens and records were used by Mr. W.J. Cody in the preparation of his book, "Ferns of the Ottawa District", published as Department of Agriculture Publication 974 in April, 1956.

In September, 1955, the Group decided to pursue a new field of study and became the Bog Group with the intention of studying all aspects of bog formation including flora, fauna, and general ecology. Field trips to Mer Bleue and other bog habitats were made during the next summer. By 1957 the Group's interests had widened still further and a new name was sought to signify their interest in all fields of natural history. The name "Traill Group" was chosen in honour of Mrs. Catherine Parr Traill, a pioneer naturalist and author who settled in the Peterborough district in the early 19th century. The Traill Group continued to be active throughout the 1950's and beyond and it is hoped a fuller account of its history will appear at a later date.

The Tree Group held its first meeting on January 8, 1951, with Mr. H. Rhodes of the Division of Botany, Department of Agriculture, as leader, and continued actively at least until 1954. The Newsletters for 1951-54 tell us that "During the winter months the Tree Group held bi-weekly meetings at the National Museum. At these meetings individual members gave prepared talks on particular tree groups, using their own collections of winter twigs as illustrative material." As a summer project in 1951 the Group made a survey of native species found on the Mackenzie King Estate. The 1952 project was "to list the shrubs of the Ottawa District and make a key for their identification in the field." By 1954 the Group had prepared a list of woody plants known to grow wild in the Ottawa District and made it available to all members of the Club.

The Liverworts and Mosses Group, under the leadership of Prof. W.I. Illman, was active for a year or two beginning in 1955. At their first meeting on April 27 in the Carleton College Biology Laboratory they began a survey of the orders of Bryophyta. Later meetings dealt with methods of collecting and study and plans for summer field trips.

Although no study group was formed for geology there was considerable interest in the subject and special geology excursions were organized by Dr. L.S. Russell. A two-day event was held on May 25 and 26, 1951. The participants, who included visiting geologists as well as amateurs, were taken on a bus tour to several points of interest on the Quebec and Ontario sides of the Ottawa River. Dr. Morley Wilson, leader for the first day, guided the group to the brucite mine near Wakefield, then up the



Dr. Alice Wilson and others at Pakenham, May 28, 1955

Ottawa valley along the Eardley escarpment to Quyon, stopping to observe geological features along the way. On the second day, Dr. Alice Wilson led the tour to examine rock formations at Billings Bridge, Dow's Lake, Hog's Back, and several sites west as far as South March. In May, 1953, the Council minutes record a fossil foray held on May 2 to the Frazer-Duntile quarries and a trip for professional geologists on May 12 to study the quaternary geology of the Ottawa district. In 1956 the Club published "A Guide to the Geology of the Ottawa District" by Dr. Alice Wilson. It appeared first in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, vol. 70, no. 1, and was reprinted as a monograph to serve as a very useful guide to our region.

Midway through the decade the Club reached its 75th anniversary. Plans to celebrate at the correct date in 1954 were delayed and the anniversary was actually observed a year later in 1955. A committee composed of past presidents of the Club with The Reverend F.E. Banim as chairman organized an Anniversary Banquet for November 8, 1955, in the Assembly Hall at Lansdowne Park. Over 100 persons attended and heard a splendid address by Prof. T.F. McIlwraith, Head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Honorary memberships were conferred on two outstanding members of the club, Dr. Alice Wilson and Mr. Herbert Groh. The local newspapers published material about the Club and Murphy-Gamble's department store gave space for a window display illustrating the activities of the Club. As a comment on the changing times the price of the banquet 25 years ago was \$2.50 per person.

As the decade ended, members of Council, particularly those on the Excursions and Lectures committee, were seeking new directions for programs and in November, 1958, a questionnaire was sent out to the membership. The replies received encouraged them to develop a course of study for amateurs with regular meetings throughout the winter designed as an introduction to summer field trips. The program of talks and workshops was organized in four subject fields, Rocks and Minerals, Plants, Birds, and Pond Life, with instructors drawn from the National Museum staff. With the new program the Club closed the 1950's and moved into the 60's.

Sources consulted:

- 1 Minutes of Annual meetings and Council meetings, 1950-59
- 2 Annual reports of Council including reports of Committees, 1950-59
- 3 Newsletters, no. 1, 1949 to no. 30, 1960
- 4 Personal notes

Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

The Council of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has appointed a Nominating Committee to search out members for next year's Council. Club members can play an important role in this process by submitting nominations to the committee. These nominations require signatures from the nominator and a seconder, plus a statement from the nominee specifying his or her willingness to serve on Council.

It is also useful for the nominator to provide some background information about the person he or she is nominating for Council. This provides the committee with a basis for considering the nominee for Council. Nominations can be made up to November 1, 1979, and should be addressed to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 3264, Postal Station C,
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Y 4J5

H. Loney Dickson
Chairman, Nominating Committee

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF ENDANGERED WILDLIFE STAMPS

Joyce Reddoch

On April tenth, the Post Office launched two new stamps in the endangered wildlife series at a ceremony in the Salon of the Victoria Memorial Museum. Presentations of souvenir portfolios were made to representatives of concerned organizations and agencies. President Roger Taylor accepted a portfolio on behalf of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

The stamps feature the Bowhead Whale, painted by Robert Bateman, and the Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle, by Gary Low. Both the whale and the turtle are of particular interest to us in the Ottawa Valley because both species have lived here, and the turtle probably still does.

In 1975, bones of a Bowhead Whale were found in a sand pit near White Lake where they had been since before 11,500 B.P. when the Champlain Sea covered the whole Ottawa area. Today, this whale is confined to the Arctic, where it stays close to the edge of the pack ice.

Today, the range of the Eastern Spiny Softshell Turtle extends from the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains northward to the lower Great Lakes, entering Canada only in the western Lake Erie region, the upper St. Lawrence River and along the Ottawa River. Dr. Francis Cook of the National Museum has two turn-of-the-century collections of this species from the river just downstream from the city, and a 1968 report from Quyon. This rare turtle is very aquatic and inhabits the bottoms of large rivers like the Ottawa. If you have ever seen a turtle in the river which looked like a pancake, Francis would like to hear about it. Call him at 996-1755 with details of location, date, habitat, description, etc. By the way, the scientific name of this turtle is *Trionyx spinifer*, not *T. spinifera*.



Derby Hill 1979

H. Loney Dickson

Again, the trip to Derby Hill was a great success. You will remember either from being there or by reading Jo Ann Murray's article entitled *Derby Hill - April 23, 1978*(T & L,13(2):44-45) that Derby Hill is situated along the Lake Ontario shoreline between Pulaski and Oswego, New York. The hill is positioned directly along the route for the main migration of birds of prey as they move along the south shore of Lake Ontario in search of a crossing point on their migration northward in the spring.

Although this year's trip ended as a great success, it certainly had the leaders, Steve O'Donnell and me, squirming for half the day wondering what we were going to do with 70 people who had come to a wind-swept hill overlooking Lake Ontario to see, as we had put it, "thousands of hawks". By twelve noon, only 200 to 300 hawks had been seen. Most people by this point were reasonably thrilled with seeing 5 or 6 Osprey at fairly close range, but at the same time were totally frustrated with having to break their necks to look at hawks some 1,000 feet over their heads. This isn't too bad if you're looking at a Turkey Vulture, but Kestrels and Sharp-shinned Hawks at this height are no more than an identifiable spot in the sky (assuming you can find them in the first place)!

Fortunately, lunch seemed to bring good luck and a change in the wind direction. Within an hour there were more hawks in the sky than most people could keep up with. Probably the most spectacular sighting was a cauldron of over 250 Broad-winged Hawks. There were numerous other cauldrons of similar size throughout the rest of the afternoon.

One bird which proved to be a "lifer" for many in attendance was a Merlin or Pigeon Hawk which flew by at head level some 60 feet away from the group and then landed in a distant tree. Telescopes enabled those who had missed it zipping by to get an extremely good look at this magnificent bird of prey.

A total of 45 species of birds were seen on the trip. Eleven of the species, and over 2200 individuals, were vultures, hawks, falcons and osprey, the majority of which were observed in the last three hours of our visit. Following is a breakdown of the sightings of these species. Our total number of individuals per species is listed in the left hand column, and the Audubon Society Official Count for the day is in the right hand column.

Species	OFNC Count	Audubon Count
Turkey Vulture	15	50
Sharp-shinned Hawk	400-500	350
Cooper's Hawk	2	8
Red-tailed Hawk	40-50	82
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	--
Broad-winged Hawk	1000-1500	2487
Rough-legged Hawk	40-45	27
Marsh Hawk	50	30
Osprey	20-30	21
Merlin	1	1
Kestrel	30	4

Some may wonder how the OFNC counts for Sharp-shinned Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Osprey and Kestrel out-number those of the Audubon Society. This can probably be explained by two factors: 1) we had 70 pairs of eyes watching for hawks, a considerably larger group than that of the Audubon Society, and 2) our group spent the afternoon at a point between the two Audubon recording stations, thus we were undoubtedly seeing a different portion of the migration. At any rate, we have sent our records down to the Society for their records.

Of the 34 other species seen on the trip, the most noteworthy were American Widgeon, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

Next year, we are hoping to have a small hawk identification pamphlet prepared for everyone on the trip so people can identify hawks at a range of at least a mile, with a little practice, of course!

I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the trip as much as Steve and I did, and that next year will be at least as good as the last two trips. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who prepared the trip, be it in the reservation of the buses, taking of the advanced bookings, the handing out of name tags, or the various other tasks involved in such an outing. Their assistance is greatly appreciated by both Steve and me.

Birds of March to May 1979



Stephen Gawn

Common Loons, the symbol of the north, passed through in low numbers this spring. More encouraging were the numbers of grebes; in late April a raft of 35 Red-necked and 50 Horned Grebes bobbed in the waters off Shirley's Bay. Double-crested Cormorants were quite common; at Britannia five or six could be seen standing, wings outspread to dry, on the log booms. Herons were seen in average numbers after arriving later than normal.

Canada Geese, for many people, are the real harbingers of spring. This year's flight was early and one of the most spectacular. Carlsbad Springs was a rest stop for several Snow Geese in late March and early April, as well as for Ottawa's fourth White-fronted Goose on April 8. Because of its orange (not pink) bill, this bird could be of the Greenland race rather than one of the two North American races. A ruddy Duck frequented the reeds at Shirley's Bay from May 10 to 16. A drake European Wigeon observed briefly at Shirley's Bay on April 16 was seen along the Quebec shore on April 20 and 22. On the morning of March 31 the swirling fog blanketing Carlsbad Springs thinned revealing a bizarre duck: a Baikal Teal of the Far East. Was it a wild bird? Or was it an escapee? Oddly enough, another (or perhaps the same) Baikal Teal was seen in New Jersey in December.

This spring saw a poor hawk migration with no large boils, but this was probably due to weekend weather conditions rather than a decline in raptor numbers. Turkey Vultures were seen in fair numbers, the earliest arriving on March 26. Adult Bald Eagles appeared on March 23 and April 22. No Yellow Rails were recorded this year. Could the amazing numbers of Yellow Rails in Kicimond Swamp a couple of years ago have been a freak occurrence? Shorebirds are always interesting to watch and among their numbers a few rarities can usually be found. A Willet at Almonte sewage lagoon on May 4 and 5 was quite an attraction and most local birders managed to get it. Our second spring

Hudsonian Godwit was seen on May 19. Phalaropes, an interesting relative of the shorebird family, are the epitome of sexual dimorphism. Not only are the males much less colourful and smaller than the females but they alone tend to the brooding and rearing of the young. A Northern Phalarope was seen on May 26. Wilson's Phalaropes have shown an increase in recent years and this spring's high was ten on May 27. Each spring birders hope for the kind of bad weather that grounds migrating shorebirds which normally pass high overhead. May 30 was such a day as at least 13 Red Knots, 50 White-rumped Sandpipers, a Marbled Godwit and 800 Semipalmated Sandpipers were forced to land.

A second-year Thayer's Gull, observed at Shirley's Bay on May 26 is one of the very few spring records. The American Ornithologists' Union only recently recognized Thayer's as a full species. However, new evidence suggests that it may have to be demoted to a subspecies of the Iceland Gull. The number of Caspian Tern sightings has dwindled over the last few years. One bird was seen on May 29.

The return migration of Great Gray Owls did not nearly match the spectacular movement of late December and early January. Single birds were found on April 1, 14 and 16. A carolina Wren sang in Beechwood Cemetery on April 24 but then moved on. It was another poor spring for Winter Wrens but Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed to be back in healthier numbers. A Northern Mockingbird was observed at the Jack Pine Trail on May 27.

It was a poor year for Gray-cheeked Thrushes with only two sightings (May 8, May 9). Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers turned up this spring; one May 20 and the second on the 27th. Vireos and warblers first appeared in late April, with the main wave coming through on May 8 to 10. Parula Warblers were very uncommon but Golden-wingeds were in higher than normal numbers. A Yellow-throated Vireo was found on May 13. The Blue-winged Warbler is extremely rare in Ottawa; a single male appeared to be setting up territory from May 17 to 19 but unfortunately has not been sighted since. A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen on May 9 at Britannia.

House Finches are experiencing a population boom in the eastern States, having recently been introduced from the west. They seem to be getting a toehold in Ottawa. A male frequented the OFNC president's feeder from April 21 to 28. A second was reported but at time of writing this sighting had not been documented. A Henslow's Sparrow was heard behind Ottawa International Airport from May 21 to 27.

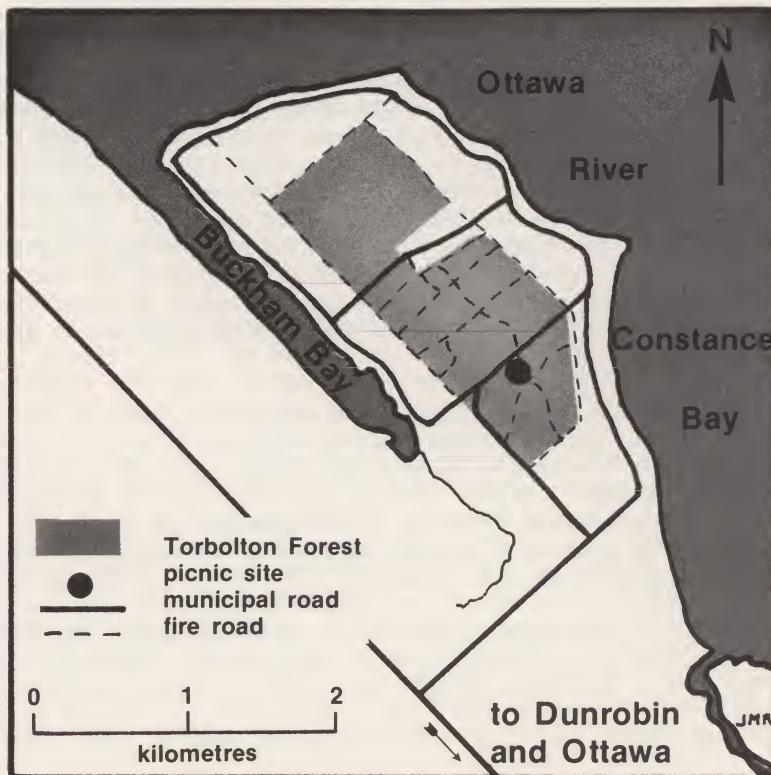
Spring migration gives the birder an opportunity to study a wide variety of colourful species with minimum expenditure of time. Most observers would agree that it passes much too quickly.

THE SAND HILLS

David J. White

The Sand Hills has long been recognized as a unique physiographic feature within the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and, in fact, in Eastern Ontario. The Sand Hills are located some 17 km westnorthwest of Ottawa. They consist of stabilized sand dunes which were formed after the melting of the glacier and the retreat of the Champlain Sea, which flooded much of the Ottawa Valley. Wind erosion, the dry nature of the sand, and the frequent natural and man-made fires combined to prevent the development of extensive forest communities. What did develop was a mosaic pattern of a diverse range of sandy-land habitats from mixed forest to open, sparsely-vegetated communities.

A.E. Porsild was the first botanist to explore the area, in 1939. After three short visits, he added about a dozen plant species to the informal "list of plants of Ottawa" and in 1941 published a paper on the flora in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. As more botanists and naturalists explored the area, more "new"



plants were found, and another article was written, this time by A.J. Breitung, and published in *Le Naturaliste Canadien* in 1957. Today we know of 10 plant species of The Sand Hills which have not been found elsewhere in Ottawa-Carleton.

One might wonder why there are so many rare plants growing in The Sand Hills and not elsewhere in some of the many sandy areas in the Region. It might be that the sand is different in soil reaction or nutrient levels, or it could have been the only area which stayed at least partly open while forest cover eventually developed on all the other sand deposits and eliminated the open-sand species. The Sand Hills is known to have been a major site of Indian habitation and stop-over for many centuries, and the fires caused inadvertently by them may have been a factor in keeping some open habitat available. Some suspect that the Indians may have intentionally introduced some of the plants such as Butterfly Weed or Puccoon; however, there is little evidence for this.

Basically, there are at present three habitats of interest in The Sand Hills: fairly mature Jack Pine-Red Oak-Large-toothed Aspen forest, young pine plantations with some young hardwood areas, and open sandy roadsides and firebreaks. The first habitat is perhaps the serclimax for The Sand Hills, that is, the most mature stage which develops before fire returns the area to rather bare sand. There are only a couple of small areas of this habitat left. In this woods, the Jack Pine forest which would have developed after a fire has been gradually taken over by hardwoods such as Large-toothed Aspen and Red Oak. Now, only a few per acre of the original Jack Pine remain, but they are quite large and tall for the species around Ottawa. In these woods, one may find such plants as Moccasin-flower, Pipsissewa, Trailing Arbutus and several species of Club-moss.

The younger woods are quite variable in composition. Red Oak and Large-toothed Aspen are common, although often the canopy is very open, allowing a thick shrub layer to develop. Many of the shrubs are rather rare in the Region. Look for Oval-leaved Redroot, Sweetfern, New Jersey Tea, Fragrant Sumac, Upland Willow and Huckleberry. The showy Wood Lily is scattered in the openings and wood edges. These plants still survive in the younger pine plantations.

The third habitat consists of essentially a pioneering community of plants adapted to open sandy areas. This is the most significant habitat in The Sand Hills because most of the rare plants occur here. A number of them are quite disjunct from the nearest locality, and one must travel to the dunes along the Great Lakes to encounter such plants as Butterfly Weed or Puccoon again. In late spring to early summer, the Downy Violet and Sand Cherry come into bloom, the latter often attracting large numbers of Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. Mid-summer finds the golden-yellow Puccoon, the showy orange Butterfly Weed and the delicate,



On the left are the golden-yellow blossoms of Puccoon (*Lithospermum carolinense*), which appear from mid-June to early July. The right-hand photograph shows Downy Violet (*Viola fimbriatula*), a purple-flowered violet with hairy, oblong leaves. It blooms in mid- to late May.



Here, a good stand of Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila*) is in bloom along a fire road in late May. Amongst the cherries, plants of Canada Wild-rye are developing. photos by Joyce Reddoch

yellow Frostweed in bloom. By late summer, some of the interesting grasses have developed, such as Canada Wild-rye and the Big and Little Bluestem. The Woodland Sunflower will be in bloom by then also.

While some members of the flora of The Sand Hills occur generally throughout the peninsula, others are restricted to very small areas. The richest and most diverse area left seems to be the Torbolton (West Carleton) Forest, especially along the fire roads and around the picnic site. The accessibility and convenience of the picnic site make it an excellent starting point for a hike around the old dunes.

Since some insects are very specific about their food plants, it is not surprising that there are colonies of a number of rare butterflies known in The Sand Hills. The colonies of Henry's Elfin (*Callophrys henrici*) and Hoary Elfin (*C. polios*) are the only ones known in Ottawa-Carleton. Five other butterflies are considered to be rare in the Region. They are Brown Elfin (*C. augustinus*), Pine Elfin (*C. niphon*), Juvenal's Dusky Wing (*Erynnis juvenalis*), Columbine Dusky Wing (*E. lucilius*) and Mottled Dusky Wing (*E. martialis*). Interestingly, Henry's Elfin, Hoary Elfin and Brown Elfin are considered to be rare or local in eastern North America. As the insects of this area are studied further, no doubt more rare species will be found to occur there.

Since Porsild's time, much of the area has been developed for cottages and homes, roads have been put in, all of the open areas have been planted in Jack and Red Pine, fire roads have been cut, and finally, in the last twenty years, fires have been prevented or quickly extinguished. The net result of this impact has been a great reduction in suitable habitat for the sand pioneering species, which in turn has reduced the population of some of these plants to a very low level. False Heather may possibly even have been extirpated. The only open sandy habitat available now for these plants exists along the roadsides and firebreaks. Unless the amount of open sandy habitat can be increased in the future, other species will be lost from the area.

While a number of factors have been responsible for the loss of habitat, it is felt that the tree-planting program of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources who manage the area has been the most destructive. The majority of the rare plants of The Sand Hills simply can not grow in pine plantations.

At present, the area is being managed almost exclusively for wood production; however, the Conservation Committee of the Club is currently working with the Ministry through the District Manager in an attempt to change the management program to bring back more of the original open dune habitat. While some changes are to be made this year, the Ministry does not appear willing to make very significant changes to its practices, changes which we feel are necessary to preserve this unusual habitat. Surely the

value of this area's unique assemblage of plants and butterflies and its possible interpretive value far outweigh its value for producing a small amount of pulp every decade.

Concurrently to our action at the local level, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists is pursuing the matter of management of forest land at the provincial level. The federation is attempting to have changes made to the Forestry Act under which the Ministry manages large areas in Ontario to allow significant natural areas to be managed for their biological value, rather than solely for their timber production.

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ADDENDUM: In the article *Burnt Lands Alvar* (T&L 13(2): 34-38), two species of plants were missed from the list. The first is the Wood Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), a common and conspicuous wildflower of The Burnt Lands when it blooms in mid-June. In Ottawa-Carleton it is considered to be uncommon. The second species is rare both in Ottawa-Carleton and on The Burnt Lands, so it is not likely to be encountered by the casual hiker. It is a pyrola (*Pyrola rotundifolia* var. *americana*). Unfortunately, it was also missed from the recent Ottawa checklist (Gillett and White, 1978). Another species, Racemed Milkwort (*Polygala polygama*) should be deleted from the list as it was based on a mis-identified Seneca Snakeroot (*Polygala senega*).

RARE AND UNCOMMON
PLANTS OF THE SAND HILLS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
<u>Rare in Ontario (Argus and White 1977)</u>		<u>Sparse in Ottawa-Carleton #</u>	
Richardson's Sedge	<i>Carex richardsonii</i> *	Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Houghton's Cyperus	<i>Cyperus houghtonii</i> *	Little Bluestem	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>
Creeping Rush	<i>Juncus subtilis</i>	Short-headed Sedge	<i>Carex brevior</i>
Impoverished Panic Grass	<i>Panicum depauperatum</i>	New Jersey Tea	<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
Jointweed	<i>Polygonella articulata</i> *	Bastard Toadflax	<i>Comandra umbellata</i>
<u>Rare in Ottawa-Carleton #</u>		Upright Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus spithameus</i>
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Wavy Hair Grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia campestris</i>	Canada Wild-rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>
+ Butterfly-weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Ox-eye	<i>Helianthus helianthoides</i>
Sartwell's Sedge	<i>Carex sartwellii</i>	Sweet Grass	<i>Hierochloe odorata</i>
Dry-spiked Sedge	<i>Carex siccata</i>	Sheep Laurel	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>
Oval-leaved Redroot	<i>Ceanothus ovatus</i>	Ground-cedar	<i>Lycopodium tristachyrum</i>
Pipsissewa	<i>Chimaphila umbellata</i>	Agglomerated Muhlenbergia	<i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i>
Sweet-fern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sharp-leaved Mountain-rice	<i>Oryzopsis pungens</i>
+ Slender Cyperus	<i>Cyperus filiculmis</i>	Northern Panic Grass	<i>Panicum boreale</i>
Trailing Arbutus	<i>Epigaea repens</i>	Yellow Panic Grass	<i>Panicum zanthophyllum</i>
+ Frostweed	<i>Helianthemum canadense</i>	Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
+ Woodland Sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	Sand Cherry	<i>Prunus pumila</i>
+ False Heather	<i>Hudsonia tomentosa</i>	Fragrant Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>
Pale Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus ochroleucus</i>	Upland Willow	<i>Salix humilis</i>
+ Pinweed	<i>Lechea intermedia</i>	Rock Spikemoss	<i>Selaginella rupestris</i>
+ Puccoon	<i>Lithospermum carolinense</i>	Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
+ Whorled Loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i>	Hooked Violet	<i>Viola adunca</i>
+ Hemlock-grove Panic Grass	<i>Panicum tsugetorum</i>	<u>Uncommon in Ottawa-Carleton #</u>	
Jack Pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier spicata</i>
Racemed Milkwort	<i>Polygala polygama</i>	Bristly Sarsaparilla	<i>Aralia hispida</i>
Pyrola	<i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i> var. <i>americana</i>	Red-panicle Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Border Meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum confine</i>	Huckleberry	<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>
+ Northern Downy Violet	<i>Viola fimbriatula</i>	Wood Lily	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>
+ only known location in Ottawa-Carleton		Pink Pyrola	<i>Pyrola asarifolia</i>
* rare in Canada (Argus and White 1977)		Carrion-flower	<i>Smilax herbacea</i>
# status based mainly on Gillett and White 1978		Hairy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago hispida</i>

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Happy Hundredth Birthday! One hundred and fifty of us celebrated the occasion on March nineteenth in the Salon of the Victoria Memorial Museum. The formal program was short. The master of ceremonies, Charlie Beddoe, introduced President Roger Taylor, who, in turn, welcomed all of us and particularly Lois Kingston, the daughter of an early member, A.G. Kingston, and a long-time member herself. Roger then introduced the past presidents who were there: Roger Foxall, Irwin Brodo, Sheila Thomson, Hue MacKenzie, George McGee, Ed Bousfield, Bill Baldwin and Pauline Snure.

Then Charlie Sternberg, also a past president, took the floor to reminisce about his years with the Club - he joined in 1914 and is our oldest member - and about his pioneering exploration and excavation of dinosaur remains in the West. His remarks were followed by "Charlie", a National Film Board feature film about his life's work collecting and studying dinosaurs.

After the film, Charlie Sternberg cut the first slice from the official cake, a fantastic and delicious owl arranged for by Gilles Patenaude and shown below, and Roger Taylor cut the Macoun Field Club cake. The rest of the evening was spent chatting with old friends and meeting new ones, and enjoying the interesting and varied selection of slides which some members had brought. Altogether, it was one of the best social events this Club has had in a long time.

Joyce M. Reddoch



The Cake

photo by
Charlie Beddoe



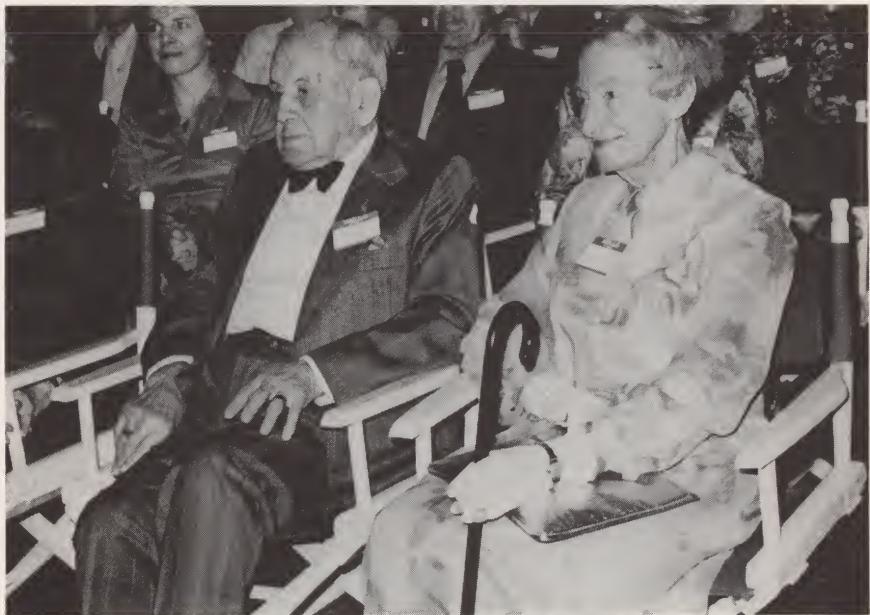
Charlie Sternberg cut the ceremonial first slice from the birthday cake. photo by Valerie Hume



President Roger Taylor did the honours on the Macoun Field Club cake which Simone de Salaberry, left, had made.
photo by Charlie Beddoe



After the formal proceedings, the party enjoyed the cake and punch while chatting or viewing slides. photo by Charlie Beddoe



Charlie Sternberg and Lois Kingston were the honoured guests.
photo by Valerie Hume

THE CENTENNIAL WEEKEND



At Stony Swamp, Loney Dickson, right, led the evening walk.
photo by Valerie Hume

THE CENTENNIAL EXCURSIONS

As the centennial weekend of excursions to favourite nature haunts fades into history, a blur of pleasant memories comes drifting back - enthusiastic groups of naturalists hiking happily through the spring woods - the delight of meeting old friends from excursions of a decade or more ago - new-formed friendships sealed with a helping hand over a flooded creek - the tantalizing song of an unidentified warbler in Stony Swamp - White Admiral butterflies flitting above the trilliums on Kidder Lane - and a pelting rain that ran dripping from the cheerful faces of two Macoun Club teenagers. But a report calls for something more specific than this. The following account, written from memory and with a decidedly personal bias, might better be termed "recollections of centennial weekend".

On an evening walk to Stony Swamp, there were Foamflowers and Columbines and unfurling fiddleheads along the trail, and in one place we found a colony of Jack-in-the-pulpits. Tiny Spring Peepers that crossed our path, and a Grey Treefrog, were nabbed and admired in hand, then released to pursue their amphibious



Loney Dickson, left, and Stephen Darbyshire caught several species of fish with their seine net on the Gatineau Park hike.
photo by Valerie Hume

ways. In the black water of the swamp, we watched a Water Snake swimming, while a Yellow Warbler sang from the swamp willows. A clump of big beige Morels brought a hungry gleam to the eyes of more than one hiker, and masses of strawberry blossoms triggered plans for a return visit in June. Once a Scarlet Tanager posed before us in the sunlit branches of a tall tree. Deeper in the woods, we listened to the plaint of the Wood Pewee, and the flutting of Veeries. One of the listeners commended to us (and we commend to you) the poetry that flowed from the pen of P.A. Taverner when describing the song of the Veery. At dusk, Nighthawks and mosquitoes emerged together, and a very congenial group of naturalists returned to the rendezvous, regrouping for a second tour of the area in search of night creatures.

The day-long excursion to Gatineau Park brought forth a different cross-section of the Club, a happy mixture of beginners, experts, and all-round naturalists. One botanist announced his intention to learn some of the bird songs this trip, while at least two dyed-in-the-wool birders were seen tagging along with the botanists, exhibiting unsuspected interest in things botanical.

Our morning hike took us to Blind Lake and back in a big clockwise loop through the woods. As we set out, we noticed in the roadside mud the dainty hoofprints of a deer. On the trail along Ramsay Lake, Hobblebush, Clintonia, and a clump of Trailing Arbutus were in flower. The level of Ramsay Lake was high, flooding parts of the trail, and in one place sending us scrambling through the woods to higher ground. In the woods beyond the lake, patches of purple Polygala brought cries of delight. To the joy of the photographers, tall pink Moccasin-flowers were in full bloom on the rocks along the trail. The first group to reach Blind Lake was rewarded with the sight of a lone Canada goose floating on the surface of the lake. Stragglers were regaled with glowing descriptions of the sight, as they rested on the rocky lakeshore.

The return lap was not without its interesting moments. Balancing along slippery logs across a shallow streambed was easy for some, a precarious adventure for others. At the washed-out bridge over Holly Creek, even the most agile accepted a steady hand when a purloined picnic table only partly bridged the gap over the swollen creek waters. These hazards overcome, we ate lunch in the breezy shade of giant White Pine, serenaded by the "wheeps" of a Crested Flycatcher. Rather few birds were seen or heard on this middle-of-the-day outing, but my bird recollections include a Yellowthroat singing in a willow marsh, and the excavations of a Piliated Woodpecker in a tree on the Blind Lake trail.

We took the trail to Kidder Lake after lunch, following a lane lined with stands of White Trilliums still in their prime, presumably protected by a late melting snowbank. There was a

beautiful patch of long-stemmed blue violets in a marshy area along this trailside too. A seine net in the swift little outlet stream from Kidder Lake, and another at the beaver works further on, produced Mudminnows, Bluntnose Minnows, Red-bellied Dace, and Sticklebacks for our inspection and admiration.

Some of us circled the lake completely, climbing through the woods to a rocky lookout where the Red Oaks were in full flower, delicate skeins of pollen flowers swaying in the breeze, and minute acorn "buds" already clearly formed on the twigs. The rocks here were decorated with Corydalis and Columbine, but time was running out, and those who stopped to admire or to photograph were forced to strike a fast pace through the woods to catch up, as we sped along the trail to the waiting bus, not a moment lost in an outing that everyone enjoyed.

Victoria Day brought a steady drenching rain. To our great disappointment, the Mer Bleue excursion had to be cancelled. We drove to Vincent Massey Park to meet the disbanding early morning birders - if indeed any had braved the weather. A little knot of birdwatchers emerged dripping wet from the woods, broad smiles on their faces. Their bird list, they reported, was not spectacular, but the outing had been an enjoyable one, and they had just seen a Black-poll Warbler.

We joined forces and made our way to the new Macoun Trail, a nature trail laid out by the Macoun Club as a centennial project of their own. In a heavy rain that never once slackened, two members of the Macoun Club led us on the inaugural guided tour around the nature trail. Over a meadow, down a poplar slope and into a rich woods the trail plunged, and for an hour we accompanied our young guides along a path that led in a long loop through a wide range of habitats - hardwoods, mixed woods, unkempt evergreen tangles, manicured evergreen plantings, sandy clearings, a shrub-lined lane along the edge of a woods - in all a perfectly delightful trail for an evening nature walk or a day of nature study. In the downpour we heard no birds, although the woods must have been full of damp little creatures, huddling in whatever shelter they could find. I noted that the area contained many different kinds of trees and ferns, and a host of different wild-flowers, including one spectacular stand of pink Moccasin-flowers. We congratulated the Macoun Club on their centennial project, and thanked our guides for the tour. They smiled their acknowledgement, politely declined all offers of rides home, and mounting their bicycles rode cheerfully off into the rain.

What better way to celebrate one hundred years of natural history than by enjoying a weekend of nature walks in the company of fellow naturalists? May our favourite areas still be here to enrich our second centennial.

Sheila C. Thomson



at
Stony Swamp

photo by
Valerie Hume

THE SEMINARS

Why a conference for our centennial celebrations? That was the question asked by a number of Council members when they were deciding on what projects were worth the support of the Club. The majority of members thought it would take too much work, and the end product would not be appealing to Club members. Nevertheless, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Gilles Patenaude, and in June 1977 it began to work out approaches to be taken, with the advice of four past presidents. After a number of meetings, the following suggestions emerged: 1) a one-day conference was envisaged; 2) it would be open to Club members and to the public; 3) it would be part of a weekend of activities, along with the opening of the exhibit and special field trips, probably on the long weekend in May; 4) the theme for the conference would be 100 years of natural history in Canada. The Council accepted these suggestions, and the committee busied itself looking for possible speakers. Tuzo Wilson was approached about speaking on 100 years of natural history in the local area, but unfortunately the timing of the conference was unsuitable to him, much to the disappointment of Valerie Hume, who did most of the contacting. Nevertheless, we got Bill Dore instead to fill the role, with his inimitable way of telling us that certain plants such as Bladder-nut and Puccoon are the tell-tale markers of old Indian encampments and trade routes.

The other speakers took us beyond the specific confines of the Ottawa area into many other parts of Canada. Fred Cooke indicated that birders were among the earliest naturalists in North America, such as factors of fur trading companies in the 1700's.

Birding from then until the late 1800's meant collecting skins and eggs. A gun, not binoculars, allowed close-ups of the Canadian species. Now that the species are all documented, serious work is carried out on topics such as population studies and the effect of chemicals in the environment. Don Smith told us of two significant inventions that advanced the study of Canadian mammalogy - the 1887 snap trap, designed for killing mice and rats, and the later live trap, also for small mammals. He indicated that the early work was done by British and American scientists, and that the type specimens of most Canadian mammals are in museums in London or Washington.

Traps are also important for catching insects, as related by Richard Vockeroth. The relatively recent, tent-like Malaisie trap has caught many new species; insects are directed up to the canvas ceiling where they fall into preserving fluid. Those of us who camp know how easy it is for mosquitos and black flies to crawl into a tent and buzz up to the top of the tent. Unlike other branches of natural science, entomology in Canada is still concerned about documenting species. Many thousands of new types are believed to occur in the Arctic and nothing is known of their life histories.

The history of geology in Canada was portrayed in well-turned phrases by Robert Legget. He led us down railway cuttings, past silver lodes, eventually to the construction of the building to hold the Geological Survey of Canada (and presently containing the Museums of Man and Natural Sciences). This building has demonstrated to us the slipping quality of Leda clay, since the building had been gradually separating into several pieces until the recent expensive and time-consuming repairs were completed.

In discussing the role that botanists from Canada and other parts of the world have had on the documentation and geography of Canadian plant species, Bernard Boivin mentioned the significant part that John Macoun played. Among the great achievements of federal wildlife conservation in the last hundred years has been the Migratory Birds Act of 1916, according to Vic Solman. This is a joint agreement between the United States and Canada, originally set up to protect the many ducks, geese, swans and cranes that were fast becoming depleted along the migratory flyways in the two countries.

Past President Irwin Brodo chaired the meeting with due aplomb, and succinctly summed up the day's contribution. For the fifty persons attending, it was a stimulating and worthwhile experience and certainly contributed to the Club's centennial celebrations. It is hoped that most, if not all, of the material will be made available in written form for those who wish to re-live that Saturday in May and for those who wished they had attended. Congratulations to Gilles and his committee and, of course, to the speakers for an excellent day.

Ewen C.D. Todd

THE CENTENNIAL BANQUET

With this being the hundredth anniversary of the Club, the annual banquet automatically became a top priority event. Right from the beginning, numerous people involved themselves to make the banquet a complete success.

The evening started off with a social hour which allowed members to chat together, listen to excerpts from the new OFNC record which was taped and produced by Monty Brigham, or purchase new Club pins or hasti notes. The Macoun Field Club again put up and manned an extremely good display illustrating their activities during the past year, plus some of the nature art produced by various Macoun members.

The dinner itself, asparagus soup, quail, arctic char and baked apple, was exquisite. It was followed by some extremely informative and well-presented talks by the three Macoun Field Club presidents or co-presidents. Diana Halhed, Kirk Thorsteinson and Wendy McAllister spoke for the Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors, respectively, outlining the various activities each of the groups of the Macoun Club had undertaken in the past year.



Kirk Thorsteinson, left, Wendy McAllister, right, and Diana Halhed reported on Macoun Field Club activities. photos by Charlie Beddoe

President Roger Taylor presented special Club pins to the new honorary members: Doug Clarke, Bill Cody, George McGee and Pauline Snure. Unfortunately, Douglas Savile was unable to make it to act as guest speaker due to illness, but some members jumped in to assist in preparing a new program, so the rest of the evening went on to finish in complete success. The panel, chaired by Joyce Reddoch and consisting of Doug Clarke, Bill Baldwin*, George McGee and Sheila Thomson, talked about the last fifty or so years of the Club's history, as they remembered it. Each member discussed the period with which he or she was most familiar and presented a very relaxing, entertaining, yet informative program. The panel enabled many people in the audience to reflect back on past trips, or to get a better understanding and appreciation of how the Club came to be.

I'm sure that everyone at the banquet would agree that the evening was an extremely successful event, and that all those who worked towards making it so should be commended for their efforts and achievement.

H. Loney Dickson

* Less than two weeks after the banquet, Bill Baldwin died. We hope to have an account of his life and accomplishments ready for the next issue. Eds.



photo by Charlie Beddoe



The guest panelists provided an interesting program of recollections and discussion. ABOVE are Bill Baldwin, left, and Doug Clarke. BELOW, from left to right, are Joyce Reddoch, Sheila Thomson and George McGee. photos by Charlie Beddoe



THE CENTENNIAL DISPLAY

The National Museum of Natural Sciences hosted an eight week exhibit in celebration of the Club's hundredth anniversary. Prepared by a committee of five Club members, the show was designed and set up with the help of museum staff, a joint effort which underlines the traditional liaison between the two institutions.

"One Hundred Years of Natural History" was organized into eight separate glass cases, one for each of botany, ornithology, geology, lectures, excursions, conservation, publications and the Macoun Field Club, each containing relics of new and old:

- paintings by Mrs. White, wife of the first president -- beside Anne Hanes' sketches for the publication *Orchids in the Ottawa District*;
- a model of the steamship "Empress" (made for the occasion by David Gray) which carried Club members on yesteryear excursions along the Ottawa River -- beside a model of today's mode of transportation for lengthy excursions, the Greyhound bus;
- old leather-bound binoculars -- beside a tripod-mounted telephoto lens;
- an 1883-1884 list of "soirees" -- beside a recent T&L calendar of events; and



Earl Godfrey cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the display officially.

photo by Chris Schwarzkogler

- the heavy Volume I of *Stanford's Compendium of Geography of North America* by Henry Ami -- beside Bill Cody's 1978 paper-back *Ferns of the Ottawa District*.

Each case reviewed a part of the naturalists' century-old story, and a continuing series of members' slides brought moments of that century to life. An art display boasted members' sketches, paintings, photographs and carvings.

The exhibit was opened by Earl Godfrey, who related to the crowd how, as a young boy in Nova Scotia, he used to absorb every word of the wonderful periodical *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. When he moved to Ottawa as a young man, one of the first things he did was to join the Club because he knew he would find in it a circle of companions for life, and so he did.

From his portrait at the entrance of the exhibit, John Macoun's eyes twinkled. What was the old man thinking as he witnessed today's members celebrating their centennial? Will Macoun's portrait hang again in one hundred years at an event to mark the second century past? What relics will members be savouring then, and what will the guest speaker be relating to the field-naturalists of the year 2079?

Sally Gray

The Great Blue Heron was one of three of Ellaine Dickson's wood carvings in the nature art section.

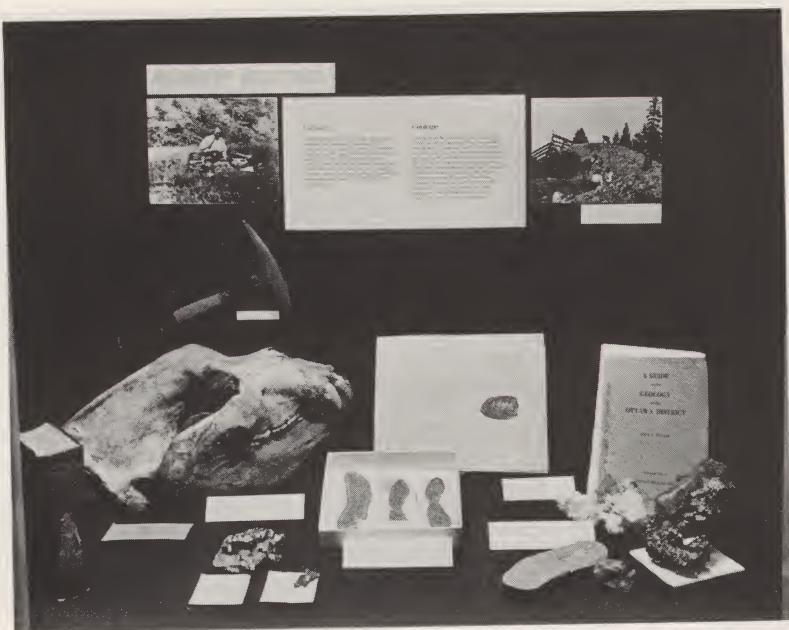
photo by Chris Schwarzkogler





ABOVE, the anteroom featured John Macoun's portrait and some of his publications. BELOW, this view shows some of the display windows and the overhead screen for continuous projection of members' slides. photos by National Museums of Canada





The geology display window was centered on some of Henry Ami's fossil collections. photo by National Museums of Canada



*After the display had been opened and toured, President Roger Taylor presented silver Club pins to the three honorary members present, Bill Baldwin, Bill Dore (above) and Earl Godfrey.
photo by Charlie Beddoe*

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

H. Loney Dickson

This year The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has recognized four people as having played important roles in the Club's activities and/or in the field of biology over the years and has awarded these people with honorary memberships at the centennial banquet, along with special silver club pins. It is with great pleasure that I can tell you a bit about the lives and accomplishments of these members: C.H.D. Clarke, W.J. Cody, G.H. McGee and P. Snure.

C.H.D. Clarke

Doug joined the Club in 1931 after seeing a reference to *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* in Taverner's *Birds of Eastern Canada*. He is one of Canada's most dedicated naturalists and has played an extremely important role in setting up some of the national parks in Canada. After Doug received his doctorate from the University of Toronto, he went to work for the agency which later became known as the Canadian Wildlife Service. His graduate work on Ruffed Grouse led him to carry out research on the fauna in various national parks, or areas which later became national parks. Doug was responsible for supplying some of the earliest data on the fauna of such areas as the Thelon Game Sanctuary, Wood Buffalo National Park, Kluane National Park, Banff National Park and Jasper National Park.

After leaving the agency, Doug came to Ontario, and started working for the Department of Lands and Forests, later known as the Ministry of Natural Resources. He eventually became chief of the Wildlife Branch of the Department. Upon retiring, Doug began to work as a consultant for various international agencies and has since done work in a wide variety of areas. One of his most significant projects was working for the Kenya government carrying out big game range research.

Doug is not only an acclaimed biologist, but he has also been an extremely active member of the Club. On joining in 1931 it didn't take him long to get totally involved in Club activities. Doug was a member of Council from 1939 to 1945 and was editor of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* in 1939 and 1940. In 1942 he served as treasurer. Doug's professional ability also helped to save Dow's Swamp temporarily from cutting. His article *Requiem for Dow's Swamp*, published in Volume 79 Number 1 of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, sheds a vast amount of light on this topic.

Doug's support of the Club and the natural environment throughout Canada and the world has made us extremely proud to have him as a member, and now, as an honorary member.

W.J. Cody

Bill has one of the longest records of active membership in the Club. Since joining in 1946, he has played an extremely important role in almost every aspect of the running of the Club. Bill has been the main member in the past to look after the horrendous task of handling the memberships of the club, locally, nationally and internationally. Bill's service on Council also seems to be endless. He has the honor of being the one Council member who at a minute's notice can think back ten or more years and point out some project or activity that the Club has done.

Bill has also come to be known as the "perennial" business manager of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*. Since 1950, Bill has monitored stocks, sold reprints and carried out public relations for this scientific journal. The journal has given the Club worldwide recognition, and thus Bill has played an invaluable service to the Club in this way alone.

Bill has also been one of the main contributing authors in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, producing over fifty scientific papers and reviews for the journal. His publication *Ferns of the Ottawa District* was published by the Department of Agriculture in April of 1956, and last year a revised edition has come out. This publication has provided hundreds of members and non-members with another means of appreciating the natural environment. Bill, with the late A.E. Porsild, has written a flora of the continental Northwest Territories. This manuscript, which is now in press, is coming at an extremely important time of increased arctic exploration and activity. The book will provide the basis for the further research which is badly needed in this environmentally sensitive and significant area.



Left, Doug Clarke, and right, Bill Cody, receive their special pins at the centennial banquet. photos by Valerie Hume

Although many members may not know Bill personally, his extraordinary dedication behind the scenes of the Club, the managing of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, and his scientific contributions to the field of Canadian botany make Bill one of the most outstanding and appreciated members in the Club.

G.H. McGee

Any member who has ever run into George, be it on a hike, at a lecture, or just casually, will know that he is one of the most active members in the Club. George has always been an avid supporter of the Club, stopping to talk with complete strangers about almost any aspect of natural history and invariably ending up convincing that person that he should join the Club right away.

Those members who are fortunate enough to know George will, of course, know his sidekicks, D'Arcy (his dog) and Bill Holland. As a youngster, I can still remember going on George's hikes, which were always an endless source of information on natural history. I can also remember the never-ending supply of food which either he or Bill provided me and numerous other starving individuals. Of course, there are also the memories of pink lemonade. I have a feeling that this too was supplied by Bill, but it was a real treat if you managed to get any, because D'Arcy had an extreme craving for this pink delight.

George has been a member of the Club since 1960, although he was extremely active in the Club's activities for a number of years prior to this date. He started out his actual career in the Club by editing the Club Newsletter, the forerunner of *Trail & Landscape*. He was a member of Council for many years. During this time he served on almost every committee and was president from 1964 to 1966.

In the early 1960's George began to give a number of bird identification lectures at the National Museum. One would think that after almost twenty years George might be getting tired of giving lectures and instilling an interest of natural history in literally hundreds of people. But, much to the pride of everyone who knows George, he is still going strong, and is now giving bird lectures and courses at various high schools throughout the city. He is also still leading hikes for the Club, and, of course, is still infecting almost everyone he meets with the joy of appreciating the natural environment.

I could go on and on about George, discussing his 1967 centennial project, the pamphlet *Birds, Botany, Geology* which is still sent to every new member, or the many other accomplishments he has made throughout his lifetime. But I'm sure that everyone by now can see that George has supplied an endless quantity of enthusiasm, support, friendship and generosity for which we will never be able to thank him sufficiently.

P. Snure

Since joining the Club in 1940, two years after receiving her doctorate in cytology, Pauline has been an extremely active member, providing the Club with vast amounts of enthusiasm and expertise. During the period from 1948 to 1950, Pauline, as president, brought the Club through some of its most productive years. It is for this period that the members of the Club, and especially the Macoun Field Club, will remember and appreciate her activity the most. For it is during this period that the Audubon Screen Tours were initiated, the Beattie Point Club House was built, and the Macoun Field Club was born.

Pauline Snure, Victor Solman, the late Herb Groh and the late Bill Baldwin brought into existence the Macoun Field Club, a club which is still supplying young people with a unique way of learning about the natural environment. Numerous past members who were initiated to the natural environment by the Macoun Field Club have gone on to various professional careers in biology, or, more importantly, have found something that they can enjoy for the rest of their lives through an opportunity that few others in this country will ever be able to enjoy. I am sure that every past and present member of the Macoun Field Club cannot express enough appreciation to Pauline for her time and dedication for helping others.

Pauline's expertise as an editor and librarian also proved to be of great help to the Club during her involvement in numerous committees over the years. Recently, she wrote an interesting article for *Trail & Landscape* entitled *The Club Years 1940-1949*, giving readers a first-hand glimpse of the Club in those years.



George McGee
(photo by Valerie Hume)



Pauline Snure
(photo by Chris Schwarzkogler)

A Naturalists' Guide to the National Capital Region

Stew Hamill

The last issue of Trail & Landscape provided the details on this centennial project. Briefly, the goal is to produce a booklet describing those natural areas of the National Capital Region which are open to the public and would be of interest to visiting or resident naturalists. Since that announcement, the list of potential areas has been narrowed to the following:

Gatineau Park	Vincent Massey / Hog's Back
Mer Bleue	Pleasant Park Woods
Stony Swamp	Rockcliffe Park
Britannia Woods and Pond	Pinhey Forest
Regional (Marlborough) Forest	Pine Grove
The Sand Hills	The Burnt Lands
Shirleys Bay	Upper Duck Island
Ottawa Beach	Lower Duck Island

For these areas we are seeking:

- 1) information on resources, features, facilities, significant species, or any other aspect which may be of interest;
- 2) photos, sketches, or other artwork of the general scenery of the area or of species or features in it.

The above list is preliminary. If you know of an area which you think should be included but is not listed, feel free to recommend its addition. I will accept submissions or answer questions at 48 Rideau Street, Ottawa, K1N 8K5, telephone 995-8641.

Typists — we need you

Again — we're appealing for additions to our (nearly dry) T&L typing pool. You work in a pleasant place, with charming company, and you get a sneak preview of a future issue. If you can operate an IBM Selectric, and would like to help us with an occasional evening's work, please call Dorothy Greene at 722-3421 (day), or 829-9831 (evening).

OFNC Centennial Items for Sale

The following items produced as Centennial projects by The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club are now available for sale.

STEREO RECORD *Songs of the Seasons* featuring sounds of nature in Ottawa, a 45-minute LP album of recordings made by Monty Brigham



OFNC LOGO PIN featuring William Rath's design, a Great Horned Owl in enamel on copper, with either pin-fastening or clutch-fastening.

HASTINOTES featuring Ellaine Dickson's pen and ink drawing of a Great Horned Owl, in packets of one dozen.

New Ottawa BIRD CHECK LIST featuring "bar-graphs" of the frequency of occurrence of each species throughout the year.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Prov. Sales Tax</u>	<u>Mailing & Handling Charge</u> (on mail orders only)
Stereo Record	\$7.94	\$0.56	\$1.25
Logo Pin	\$2.80	\$0.20	\$0.75
Hastinotes (12)	\$2.80	\$0.20	\$0.75
Check List	\$0.25	---	\$0.50 per order*

*not required if ordered with Record

All of these items will be available for purchase at the OFNC monthly meetings on Tuesday September 11 and Tuesday October 9. Alternatively they may be purchased from Lois Cody, 1189 Tara Drive near Maitland Ave. (225-3190) or Anne Taylor, 2147 Quinn Cres. in Alta Vista (731-9270).

For mail orders please include the mailing and handling charge and send cheque or money order payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, P.O. Box 3264, Station C, Ottawa, K1Y 4J5. Ontario residents must also include Provincial sales tax. For Logo Pins please specify the type of fastening desired.

Centennial Picnic

Sunday, September 16

Bring a picnic lunch and come on out for the last major social event of the Centennial Year.

Bring the whole family -- something for everyone.

Several interesting outings have been planned for the morning, departing from Carlingwood Shopping Centre. Groups will meet for lunch at 12.30 p.m.

MORNING EXCURSIONS

Registration desired by September 9th

Birds Leader: Monty Brigham
 Registration: Norma Johnston (729-7828)
 Transportation: by car
 Departure time: 8.00 a.m.
 Bring binoculars

Geology Leader: Don Hogarth
 Registration: Bev Bewley
 (235-1047 after 5 p.m.)
 Transportation: by car
 Departure time: 9:00 a.m.
 Do NOT bring binoculars

For the following outings, buses will be available for those who wish to use them. The cost will be \$3.00 per person and \$5.00 per family to be paid at the bus. Departure time in each case will be 9:00 a.m.

Botany Leader: to be decided
Registration: Carol McLurg (731-3481)

Mosses Leader: Bob Ireland
Registration: Carol McLurg (731-3481)
Bring a hand lens

General Walk Leader: Shirley Black
Registration: Jean Hastey (745-5467)

Aquatics Leader: Jo Ann Murray
Registration: Jean Hastey (745-5467)
Bring a simple dip net (e.g. made from coat hanger and top of panty hose), water footwear and plastic containers.

For ALL excursions: Meet at Loblaws, Carlingwood Shopping Centre

The picnic will be held at the Church Hill picnic grounds at the entrance to Gatineau Park north of Eardley, Quebec, on the Eardley-Masham road. Watch for OFNC signs. If you cannot make it to one of the outings, be sure to come to the picnic, starting about 12:30 p.m.

The buses will be arriving back at Carlingwood Shopping Centre by about 4:00 p.m.

If you wish to go on a morning outing, please register by September 9.

OFNC Early Fall Program

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Charlie Beddoe (733-9026), Chairman
Janette Dean, Associate Chairman

All times stated for excursions and walks are departure or starting times. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to avoid being left behind; leaders are instructed to start promptly.

BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

West End: meet Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue
East End: meet Elmvale Shopping Centre (near Woolworths)

		<u>Time</u>	<u>Leader</u>	
W E	Saturday	8 Sept.	6:30 a.m.	Roger Taylor 731-9270
E E	Saturday	15 Sept.	6:45 a.m.	Stephen Gawn 741-8597
W E	Sunday	23 Sept.	6:45 a.m.	Bob Bracken 728-5137
W E	Sunday	30 Sept.	7:00 a.m.	Frank Bell 521-8046
W E	Saturday	6 October	7:00 a.m.	Bruce Barrett 836-5927

Tuesday
11 September

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT

Meet: Activity Centre, Museum of Natural Sciences
McLeod and Metcalfe
Time: 8:00 p.m.

An informal get-together to see and hear about members' special interests and experiences. Contact Peter Hall 733-0698 (evenings) to pre-arrange your slide presentation.

Sunday
16 September

CENTENNIAL PICNIC AND FIELD TRIPS See page 154

Sunday
23 September

MACOUN NATURE TRAIL, CONROY ROAD Meet: Elmvale Shopping Centre (near Woolworths) Time: 9:30 a.m.

Macoun Club members worked hard to prepare this new trail. It is well worth visiting under their guidance, and for your orientation for future visits. For information, call Charlie Beddoe (733-9026).

Saturday
29 September

MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP

Time: 9:00 a.m.

By pre-registration on a first-come basis, as only limited numbers can be accepted this year due to leader shortage. Jim Ginns of Agriculture Canada will again be principal leader. For registration and details contact Ellaine Dickson at 722-3050 after 10 a.m. only, or Charlie Beddoe at 733-9026.

Tuesday
9 October

"PARKS, NATURE RESERVES AND SANCTUARIES --
THEN WHAT?"

Speaker: Dr. Louis Lemieux, Director,
National Museum of Natural Sciences

Meet: Auditorium of Museum
Metcalfe and McLeod

Time: 8:00 p.m.

It is a privilege to have our host and good friend of the OFNC speak to us from his acquaintance with international, national and provincial parks and reserves systems. He believes that these will not suffice to preserve adequate portions of our natural environment, and looks for additional concepts.

Saturday
20 October

SKYCROFT CAMPS NATURE PRESERVE

Leader: Charlie Beddoe (733-9026)

Meet: West End Shoppers City
Near Woodroffe exit

Time: 8:45 a.m.

A joint outing with the Ottawa Rideau Trail Club at Skycroft - a unique camp and 2000-acre private nature preserve on Lake Opinicon, 4 miles past Chaffey's Locks canal bridge. If desired, camp overnight for modest fee. Bring snacks, lunch or supplies as necessary. Contact leader for details.

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